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**BOOK REVIEWS.**

**The Supreme Court of the United States**—With a Review of Certain Decisions relating to its Appellate Power under the Constitution, by Edwin Countryman. Matthew Bender & Co., Law Publishers. Albany, New York. Price \$2.50.

"Taking one consideration with another," the reviewer's job "is not a happy one," especially of law books. The work must necessarily be hurried and the examination of volume after volume upon various subjects—some exceedingly dry and uninteresting—too often perfunctory. The author and publisher expect kind words and it is very hard for the conscientious workman to fail to remember the old motto of the Edinburgh. *Judex damnatur cum nocens absolvitur*. But occasionally a book comes to our table whose perusal is a downright pleasure and then the danger of over-praising is ever present. We are almost afraid to say what we think of Mr. Countryman's book lest we grow extravagant, for we have read it carefully, conscientiously and with the feeling ever growing upon us that it is one of the most valuable contributions to a study of its important subject which has ever been published. The author clearly, fearlessly and in a most interesting way analyzes and composes many of the decisions and opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States upon great constitutional questions, and with these analyses and comparisons has interwoven honest, logical and well considered views of his own, which command at once interest and thought. The modern heresies which are fast taking hold of the minds of our people as to our system of government are shown without any partisan bias and in a manner appealing alike to the lawyer, the legislator or the student. And this is done in connection with the author's subject as skillfully as briefly. A lawyer will find the book of value as a reference to cases upon constitutional subjects; the layman will read it alike for its interest and the information it gives upon our Constitution and the decisions which have made it, so different from the instrument many of us thought it was intended to be. No student of Constitutional Law can afford to be without it and we would that every politician wishing to have statesmanlike qualifications could read and ponder over it. Judges can peruse it with pleasure. We read it for review but almost forgot the reviewer as we read. We expect to re-read it with renewed pleasure and if this brief mention can spread its circulation over a wide area we shall feel that we have aided in some small degree in the service the author has done to his country.